United Nations A/61/436

General Assembly

Distr.: General
1 December 2006

Original: English

Sixty-first session
Agenda item 41

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Elena **Molaroni** (San Marino)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 13 September 2006, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-first session the item entitled "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee considered the item at its 40th to 43rd and 46th to 51st meetings, from 7 to 9, on 16 and 17 and from 20 to 22 November 2006. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/61/SR.40-43 and 46-51).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;[1]

(b) Report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;[2]

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on a new international humanitarian order (A/61/224);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa (A/61/301).

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 12* (A/61/12).
[2] Ibid., *Supplement No. 12A* (A/61/12/Add.1).

06-54984 (E) 081206

4. At the 40th meeting, on 7 November, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees made an introductory statement, and the Committee engaged in a dialogue with the High Commissioner, in which the representatives of Afghanistan and Uzbekistan participated (see A/C.3/61/SR.40).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.3/61/L.47

5. At the 42nd meeting, on 8 November, the representative of Estonia, on behalf also of Costa Rica, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees" (A/C.3/61/L.47).

6. At its 48th meeting, on 17 November, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/61/L.47 without a vote (see para. 21, draft resolution I).

8. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Costa Rica (see A/C.3/61/SR.48).

B. Draft resolution A/C.3/61/L.52

9. At the 43rd meeting, on 9 November, the representative of Sweden, on behalf of Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, Colombia, the Congo, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Morocco, Namibia, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, and the United States of America, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees" (A/C.3/61/L.52). Subsequently, Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Bolivia, Botswana, Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, China, the Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guyana, Jamaica, Jordan, Lesotho, Mali, Micronesia (Federated States of), Montenegro, Mozambique, New Zealand, the Niger, Peru, Senegal, Suriname, Swaziland, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, Uruguay and Zambia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

10. At its 49th meeting, on 20 November, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

11. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/61/L.52 without a vote (see para. 21, draft resolution II).

C. Draft resolution A/C.3/61/L.54 and Rev.1

12. At the 46th meeting, on 16 November, the representative of Jordan, on behalf of Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Comoros, Djibouti, Jordan, Lebanon and Pakistan, introduced a draft resolution entitled "New international humanitarian order" (A/C.3/61/L.54). Subsequently, Azerbaijan, the Central African Republic, Iraq and Morocco joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolution 59/171 of 20 December 2004, as well as its previous resolutions relating to the promotion of a new international humanitarian order,

"*Noting with appreciation* the continuing efforts of the United Nations system to increase its capacity and that of its Member States to provide assistance to victims of natural and man-made disasters,

"*Bearing in mind* the proposal regarding the development of an agenda for humanitarian action and the affirmation of the Secretary-General that, in that context, the Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues would be involved in developing it further and would assist in the implementation process,

"1. *Recognizes* the need for the further strengthening of national, regional and international efforts to solve humanitarian problems and for the identification of those problems that can be solved before they create victims;

"2. *Calls upon* the Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues to further reinforce its activities and develop the agenda for humanitarian action, as affirmed by the Secretary-General;

"3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to strengthen efforts in the humanitarian field and to report thereon, to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session, as at previous sessions."

13. At its 51st meeting, on 22 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution (A/C.3/61/L.54/Rev.1), submitted by Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Central African Republic, the Comoros, Djibouti, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Morocco, Pakistan and Thailand. Subsequently, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria and the Philippines joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

14. At the same meeting, the representative of Jordan orally revised the text as follows:

(a) In the second preambular paragraph, the words "natural and man-made disasters" were replaced by the words "humanitarian emergencies";

(b) In operative paragraph 1, the words "to solve humanitarian problems" were replaced by the words "to address humanitarian emergencies" and the words

"and for the identification of those problems that can be solved before they create victims" were deleted at the end of the paragraph.

15. Also at its 51st meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

16. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/61/L.54/Rev.1, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 21, draft resolution III).

D. Draft resolution A/C.3/61/L.55

17. At the 46th meeting, on 16 November, the representative of Namibia, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States, and Azerbaijan, the Czech Republic, Japan, Luxembourg, Portugal and Sweden, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa" (A/C.3/61/L.55). Subsequently, Austria, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Dominica, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malawi, Mauritania, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

18. At its 50th meeting, on 21 November, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

19. At the same meeting, the representative of Namibia, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States, made a statement (A/C.3/61/SR.50).

20. Also at its 50th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/61/L.55 without a vote (see para. 21, draft resolution IV).

III. Recommendations of the Third Committee

21. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council decision 2006/237 of 26 July 2006 concerning the enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Taking note also of the requests regarding the enlargement of the Executive Committee contained in the letter dated 8 March 2006 from the Deputy Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General[1] and the letter dated 30 May 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Estonia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General,[2]

1. *Decides* to increase the number of members of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees from seventy to seventy-two States;

2. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to elect the additional members at its resumed organizational session for 2007.

[1] E/2006/3.
[2] E/2006/82.

Draft resolution II
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the activities of his Office[1] and the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its fifty-seventh session[2] and the conclusions and decisions contained therein,

Recalling its previous annual resolutions on the work of the Office of the High Commissioner since its establishment by the General Assembly,

Expressing its appreciation for the leadership shown by the High Commissioner, commending the staff and implementing partners of the Office of the High Commissioner for the competent, courageous and dedicated manner in which they discharge their responsibilities, and underlining its strong condemnation of all forms of violence to which humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel are increasingly exposed,

1. *Endorses* the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its fifty-seventh session;[2]

2. *Welcomes* the important work undertaken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and its Executive Committee in the course of the year, and notes in this context the adoption of the conclusion on women and girls at risk and the conclusion on identification, prevention and reduction of statelessness and protection of stateless persons,[3] which are aimed at strengthening the international protection regime, consistent with the Agenda for Protection,[4] and at assisting Governments in meeting their protection responsibilities in today's changing international environment, including by promoting the progressive implementation of mechanisms and standards through relevant national public policies supported by the international community;

3. *Reaffirms* the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees[5] and the 1967 Protocol thereto[6] as the foundation of the international refugee protection regime, recognizes the importance of their full and effective application by States parties and the values they embody, notes with satisfaction that one hundred and forty-six States are now parties to one instrument or to both, encourages States not parties to consider acceding to those instruments, underlines in particular the importance of full respect for the principle of non-refoulement, and recognizes that a number of States not parties to the international refugee instruments have shown a generous approach to hosting refugees;

---

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 12* (A/61/12).
[2] Ibid., *Supplement No. 12A* (A/61/12/Add.1).
[3] Ibid., chap. III, sects. A and B.
[4] Ibid., *Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 12A* (A/57/12/Add.1), annex IV.
[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.
[6] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.

4. *Notes* that sixty-one States are now parties to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons[7] and that thirty-three States are parties to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness,[8] encourages States that have not done so to give consideration to acceding to these instruments, notes the work of the High Commissioner in regard to identifying stateless persons, preventing and reducing statelessness, and protecting stateless persons, and urges the Office to continue to work in this area in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions and Executive Committee conclusions;

5. *Takes note* of the current activities of the Office related to the protection and assistance of internally displaced persons, including in the context of inter-agency arrangements in this field, emphasizes that such activities should be consistent with relevant General Assembly resolutions and should not undermine the mandate of the Office for refugees and the institution of asylum, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue his dialogue with States on the role of his Office in this regard;

6. *Re-emphasizes* that the protection of refugees is primarily the responsibility of States, whose full and effective cooperation, action and resolve are required to enable the Office of the High Commissioner to fulfil its mandated functions, and strongly emphasizes, in this context, the importance of active international solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing;

7. *Emphasizes* that the prevention and reduction of statelessness are primarily the responsibility of States, in appropriate cooperation with the international community;

8. *Also emphasizes* that protection and assistance to internally displaced persons are primarily the responsibility of States, in appropriate cooperation with the international community;

9. *Urges* all States and relevant non-governmental and other organizations, in conjunction with the Office of the High Commissioner, in a spirit of international solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing, to cooperate and to mobilize resources with a view to enhancing the capacity of and reducing the heavy burden borne by host countries, in particular those that have received large numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers, and calls upon the Office to continue to play its catalytic role in mobilizing assistance from the international community to address the root causes as well as the economic, environmental and social impact of large-scale refugee populations in developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition;

10. *Strongly condemns* attacks on refugees, asylum-seekers and internally displaced persons as well as acts that pose a threat to their personal security and well-being, and calls upon all concerned States and, where applicable, parties involved in an armed conflict to take all necessary measures to ensure respect for human rights and international humanitarian law;

11. *Deplores* the refoulement and unlawful expulsion of refugees and asylum-seekers, and calls upon all concerned States to ensure respect for the principles of refugee protection and human rights;

---

[7] Ibid., vol. 360, No. 5158.

[8] Ibid., vol. 989, No. 14458.

12. *Emphasizes* that international protection of refugees is a dynamic and action-oriented function that is at the core of the mandate of the Office of the High Commissioner and that it includes, in cooperation with States and other partners, the promotion and facilitation of, inter alia, the admission, reception and treatment of refugees in accordance with internationally agreed standards and the ensuring of durable, protection-oriented solutions, bearing in mind the particular needs of vulnerable groups and paying special attention to those with specific needs, and notes in this context that the delivery of international protection is a staff-intensive service that requires adequate staff with the appropriate expertise, especially at the field level;

13. *Affirms* the importance of mainstreaming the protection needs of women and children to ensure their participation in the planning and implementation of programmes of the Office of the High Commissioner and State policies and the importance of according priority to addressing the problem of sexual and gender-based violence;

14. *Acknowledges* that forcibly displaced women and girls can be exposed to particular protection problems related to their gender, their cultural and socio-economic position, and their legal status, that they may be less likely than men and boys to be able to exercise their rights, and that therefore specific action in favour of women and girls may be necessary to ensure they can enjoy protection and assistance on an equal basis with men and boys, and notes the important guidance provided in the Executive Committee conclusion on women and girls at risk to address issues of identification of those individuals and action to be taken in prevention and response;

15. *Strongly reaffirms* the fundamental importance and the purely humanitarian and non-political character of the function of the Office of the High Commissioner of providing international protection to refugees and seeking permanent solutions to refugee problems, and recalls that those solutions include voluntary repatriation and, where appropriate and feasible, local integration and resettlement in a third country, while reaffirming that voluntary repatriation, supported by necessary rehabilitation and development assistance to facilitate sustainable reintegration, remains the preferred solution;

16. *Expresses concern* about the particular difficulties faced by the millions of refugees in protracted situations, and emphasizes the need to redouble international efforts and cooperation to find practical and comprehensive approaches to resolving their plight and to realize durable solutions for them, consistent with relevant General Assembly resolutions and international law;

17. *Recalls* the important role of effective partnerships and coordination in meeting the needs of refugees and in finding durable solutions to their situations, welcomes the efforts under way, in cooperation with countries hosting refugees and countries of origin, including their respective local communities, United Nations agencies and other development actors, to promote a framework for durable solutions, particularly in protracted refugee situations, which includes the "4Rs" approach (repatriation, reintegration, rehabilitation and reconstruction) to sustainable return, and encourages States, in cooperation with United Nations agencies and other development actors, to support, inter alia, through the allocation of funds, the development and implementation of the 4Rs and other programming tools to facilitate the transition from relief to development;

18. *Welcomes* the progress that has been achieved in increasing the number of refugees resettled and the number of States offering opportunities for resettlement, notes that the Multilateral Framework of Understandings on Resettlement[9] sets out the strategic use of resettlement as part of a comprehensive approach to refugee situations aimed at improving access to durable solutions for a greater number of refugees, and invites interested States, the Office of the High Commissioner and other relevant partners to make use of the Multilateral Framework, where appropriate and feasible;

19. *Notes* the progress that is being made by interested States and the Office to take forward elements outlined in the Mexico Plan of Action to Strengthen International Protection of Refugees in Latin America, adopted on 16 November 2004, and expresses its support for the efforts to promote its implementation with the cooperation and assistance of the international community, as appropriate, including in the area of resettlement, as well as in supporting host communities that receive large numbers of persons who require international protection;

20. *Notes* that some progress is being made by interested States and the Office within the context of the European-Asian Programme on Forced Displacement and Migration on issues related to asylum and forced displacement, consistent with the mandate of the Office;

21. *Notes* the importance of States and the Office discussing and clarifying the role of the Office in mixed migratory flows, in order to better address protection needs in the context of mixed migratory flows, including by safeguarding access to asylum for those in need of international protection, and further notes the readiness of the High Commissioner, consistent with his mandate, to assist States in fulfilling their protection responsibilities in this regard;

22. *Emphasizes* the obligation of all States to accept the return of their nationals, calls upon States to facilitate the return of their nationals who have been determined not to be in need of international protection, and affirms the need for the return of persons to be undertaken in a safe and humane manner and with full respect for their human rights and dignity, irrespective of the status of the persons concerned;

23. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to improve its management systems and to ensure effective and transparent use of its resources, recognizes that adequate and timely resources are essential for the Office to continue to fulfil the mandate conferred upon it through its statute[10] and by subsequent General Assembly resolutions on refugees and other persons of concern, recalls its resolutions 58/153 of 22 December 2003, 58/270 of 23 December 2003, 59/170 of 20 December 2004 and 60/129 of 16 December 2005 concerning, inter alia, the implementation of paragraph 20 of the statute of the Office, and urges Governments and other donors to respond promptly to annual and supplementary appeals issued by the Office for requirements under its programmes;

24. *Calls upon* the Office to widen its donor base, so as to achieve greater burden-sharing by reinforcing cooperation with traditional governmental donors, non-traditional donors and the private sector;

25. *Requests* the High Commissioner to report on his activities to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session.

[9] Available from www.unhcr.org.

[10] Resolution 428 (V), annex.

Draft resolution III
New international humanitarian order

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 59/171 of 20 December 2004, all previous resolutions concerning the promotion of a new international humanitarian order[1] and all relevant resolutions, in particular resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991, on the strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations, and the annex thereto,

Noting with appreciation the continuing efforts of the United Nations system to increase its capacity and that of its Member States to provide assistance to victims of humanitarian emergencies,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[2]

1. *Recognizes* the need for the further strengthening of national, regional and international efforts to address humanitarian emergencies;

2. *Invites* Member States, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, relevant entities of the United Nations system, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, including the Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues, to reinforce activities and cooperation so as to continue to develop an agenda for humanitarian action;[3]

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to strengthen efforts in the humanitarian field and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session.

---

[1] Resolutions 36/136, 37/201, 38/125, 40/126, 42/120, 42/121, 43/129, 43/130, 45/101, 45/102, 47/106, 49/170, 51/74, 53/124 and 55/73.

[2] A/61/224.

[3] See A/59/554, para. 4.

Draft resolution IV
Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Organization of African Unity Convention governing the specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa of 1969[1] and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights,[2]

Reaffirming that the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees,[3] together with the 1967 Protocol thereto,[4] as complemented by the Organization of African Unity Convention of 1969, remains the foundation of the international refugee protection regime in Africa,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General[5] and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;[6]

2. *Notes* the need for African States to address resolutely the root causes of all forms of forced displacement in Africa and to foster peace, stability and prosperity throughout the African continent so as to forestall refugee flows;

3. *Notes with great concern* that, despite all of the efforts made so far by the United Nations, the African Union and others, the situation of refugees and displaced persons in Africa remains precarious, and calls upon States and other parties to armed conflict to observe scrupulously the letter and spirit of international humanitarian law, bearing in mind that armed conflict is one of the principal causes of forced displacement in Africa;

4. *Welcomes* decision EX.CL/Dec.284 (XI) on the situation of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa, adopted by the Executive Council of the African Union at its ninth ordinary session, held at Banjul, the Gambia, on 28 and 29 June 2006;[7]

5. *Expresses its appreciation* for the leadership shown by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and commends the Office for its ongoing efforts, with the support of the international community, to assist African countries of asylum and to respond to the protection and assistance needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa;

6. *Recognizes* that, among refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons, women and children are the majority of the population affected by conflict, and in this context notes the conclusion on women and girls at risk adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at its fifty-seventh session;[8]

---

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1001, No. 14691.
[2] Ibid., vol. 1520, No. 26363.
[3] Ibid., vol. 189, No. 2545.
[4] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.
[5] A/61/301.
[6] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 12* (A/61/12).
[7] See African Union, document EX.CL/Dec.278-314 (IX).
[8] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 12A* (A/61/12/Add.1), chap. III, sect. A.

7. *Notes* the conclusion on identification, prevention and reduction of statelessness and protection of stateless persons adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at its fifty-seventh session,[9] which is aimed at enhancing the protection of stateless persons as well as the prevention and reduction of statelessness;

8. *Reiterates* the importance of the full and effective implementation of standards and procedures, including the monitoring and reporting mechanism outlined in Security Council resolution 1612 (2005) of 26 July 2005, to better address the specific protection needs of refugee children and adolescents and to safeguard rights and, in particular, to ensure adequate attention to unaccompanied and separated children and children affected by armed conflict, including former child soldiers in refugee settings, as well as in the context of voluntary repatriation and reintegration measures;

9. *Recognizes* the importance of early registration and effective registration systems and censuses as a tool of protection and as a means to the quantification and assessment of needs for the provision and distribution of humanitarian assistance and to implement appropriate durable solutions;

10. *Recalls* the conclusion on registration of refugees and asylum-seekers adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at its fifty-second session,[10] notes the many forms of harassment faced by refugees and asylum-seekers who remain without any form of documentation attesting to their status, recalls the responsibility of States to register refugees on their territories, and, as appropriate, the responsibility of the Office of the High Commissioner or mandated international bodies to do so, reiterates in this context the central role which early and effective registration and documentation can play, guided by protection considerations, in enhancing protection and supporting efforts to find durable solutions, and calls upon the Office of the High Commissioner, as appropriate, to help States to conduct this procedure should they be unable to register refugees on their territory;

11. *Calls upon* the international community, including States and the Office of the High Commissioner and other relevant United Nations organizations, within their respective mandates, to take concrete action to meet the protection and assistance needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons and to contribute generously to projects and programmes aimed at alleviating their plight and facilitating durable solutions for refugees and displaced persons;

12. *Reaffirms* the importance of timely and adequate assistance and protection for refugees, also reaffirms that assistance and protection are mutually reinforcing and that inadequate material assistance and food shortages undermine protection, notes the importance of a rights- and community-based approach in engaging constructively with individual refugees and their communities to achieve fair and equitable access to food and other forms of material assistance, and expresses concern in regard to situations in which minimum standards of assistance are not met, including those in which adequate needs assessments have yet to be undertaken;

---

[9] Ibid., sect. B.

[10] Ibid., *Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 12A* (A/56/12/Add.1), chap. III, sect. B.

13. *Also reaffirms* that respect by States for their protection responsibilities towards refugees is strengthened by international solidarity involving all members of the international community and that the refugee protection regime is enhanced through committed international cooperation in a spirit of solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing among all States;

14. *Further reaffirms* that host States have the primary responsibility to ensure the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum, and calls upon States, in cooperation with international organizations, within their mandates, to take all necessary measures to ensure respect for the principles of refugee protection and, in particular, to ensure that the civilian and humanitarian nature of refugee camps is not compromised by the presence or the activities of armed elements or used for purposes that are incompatible with their civilian character, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue efforts, in consultation with States and other relevant actors, to ensure the civilian and humanitarian character of camps;

15. *Condemns* all acts that pose a threat to the personal security and well-being of refugees and asylum-seekers, such as refoulement, unlawful expulsion and physical attacks, calls upon States of refuge, in cooperation with international organizations, where appropriate, to take all necessary measures to ensure respect for the principles of refugee protection, including the humane treatment of asylum-seekers;

16. *Deplores* the continuing violence and insecurity which constitute an ongoing threat to the safety and security of staff members of the Office of the High Commissioner and other humanitarian organizations and an obstacle to the effective fulfilment of the mandate of the Office and the ability of its implementing partners and other humanitarian personnel to discharge their respective humanitarian functions, urges States, parties to conflict and all other relevant actors to take all necessary measures to protect activities related to humanitarian assistance, prevent attacks on and kidnapping of national and international humanitarian workers and ensure the safety and security of the personnel and property of the Office and that of all humanitarian organizations discharging functions mandated by the Office, and calls upon States to investigate fully any crime committed against humanitarian personnel and bring to justice the persons responsible for such crimes;

17. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner, the African Union, subregional organizations and all African States, in conjunction with agencies of the United Nations system, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the international community, to strengthen and revitalize existing partnerships and forge new ones in support of the international refugee protection system;

18. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner, the international community and other concerned entities to intensify their support to African Governments through appropriate capacity-building activities, including training of relevant officers, disseminating information about refugee instruments and principles, providing financial, technical and advisory services to accelerate the enactment or amendment and implementation of legislation relating to refugees, strengthening emergency response and enhancing capacities for the coordination of humanitarian activities;

19. *Reaffirms* the right of return and the principle of voluntary repatriation, appeals to countries of origin and countries of asylum to create conditions that are

conducive to voluntary repatriation, recognizes that, while voluntary repatriation remains the pre-eminent solution, local integration and third-country resettlement, where appropriate and feasible, are also viable options for dealing with the situation of African refugees who, owing to prevailing circumstances in their respective countries of origin, are unable to return home;

20. *Also reaffirms* that voluntary repatriation should not necessarily be conditioned on the accomplishment of political solutions in the country of origin in order not to impede the exercise of the refugees' right to return, recognizes that the voluntary repatriation and reintegration process is normally guided by the conditions in the country of origin, in particular that voluntary repatriation can be accomplished in conditions of safety and dignity, and urges the High Commissioner to promote sustainable return through the development of durable and lasting solutions, particularly in protracted refugee situations;

21. *Calls upon* the international donor community to provide financial and material assistance that allows for the implementation of community-based development programmes that benefit both refugees and host communities, as appropriate, in agreement with host countries and consistent with humanitarian objectives;

22. *Appeals* to the international community to respond positively, in the spirit of solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing, to the third-country resettlement needs of African refugees, notes in this regard the importance of using resettlement strategically, as part of situation-specific comprehensive responses to refugee situations, and to this end encourages interested States, the Office of the High Commissioner and other relevant partners to make full use of the Multilateral Framework of Understandings on Resettlement,[11] where appropriate;

23. *Calls upon* the international donor community to provide material and financial assistance for the implementation of programmes intended for the rehabilitation of the environment and infrastructure affected by refugees in countries of asylum;

24. *Urges* the international community, in the spirit of international solidarity and burden-sharing, to continue to fund generously the refugee programmes of the Office of the High Commissioner and, taking into account the substantially increased needs of programmes in Africa, inter alia, as a result of repatriation possibilities, to ensure that Africa receives a fair and equitable share of the resources designated for refugees;

25. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner and interested States to identify protracted refugee situations which might lend themselves to resolution through the development of specific, multilateral, comprehensive and practical approaches to resolving such refugee situations, including improvement of international burden- and responsibility-sharing and realization of durable solutions, within a multilateral context;

26. *Expresses grave concern* at the increasing numbers of internally displaced persons in Africa, calls upon States to take concrete action to pre-empt internal displacement and to meet the protection and assistance needs of internally displaced persons, recalls in this regard the Guiding Principles on Internal

[11] Available from www.unhcr.org.

Displacement,[12] takes note of the current activities of the Office related to the protection and assistance of internally displaced persons, including in the context of inter-agency arrangements in this field, emphasizes that such activities should be consistent with relevant General Assembly resolutions and should not undermine the mandate of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the institution of asylum, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue his dialogue with States on the role of his Office in this regard;

27. *Invites* the Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons to continue his ongoing dialogue with Member States and the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, in accordance with his mandate, and to include information thereon in his reports to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly;

28. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session, taking fully into account the efforts expended by countries of asylum, under the item entitled "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions".

[12] E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, annex.